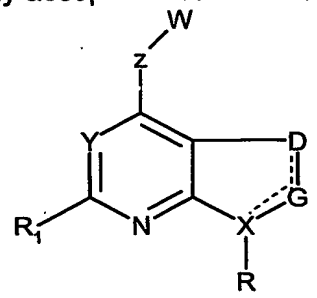
Claims

1. Compounds of formula (I) including stereoisomers, prodrugs and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates thereof



(I)

wherein

the dashed line may represent a double bond;

R is aryl or heteroaryl, each of which may be substituted by 1 to 4 groups J selected from:
halogen, C1-C6 alkyl, C1-C6 alkoxy, halo C1-C6 alkyl, C2-C6 alkenyl, C2-C6 alkynyl, halo C1-C6 alkoxy, $-C(O)R_2$, nitro, hydroxy, $-NR_3R_4$, cyano or a group Z;

R_1 is hydrogen, C3-C7 cycloalkyl, C1-C6 alkyl, C1-C6 alkoxy, C1-C6 thioalkyl, C2-C6 alkenyl, C2-C6 alkynyl, halo C1-C6 alkyl, halo C1-C6 alkoxy, halogen, NR_3R_4 or cyano;

R_2 is a C1-C4 alkyl, $-OR_3$ or $-NR_3R_4$;

R_3 is hydrogen or C1-C6 alkyl;

R_4 is hydrogen or C1-C6 alkyl;

R_5 is a C1-C6 alkyl, halo C1-C6 alkyl, C1-C6 alkoxy, halo C1-C6 alkoxy, C3-C7 cycloalkyl, hydroxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, $-NR_3R_4$; $-C(O)R_2$;

R_6 is a C1-C6 alkyl, halo C1-C6 alkyl, C1-C6 alkoxy, halo C1-C6 alkoxy, C3-C7 cycloalkyl, hydroxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, $-NR_3R_4$; $-C(O)R_2$;

R_7 is hydrogen, C1-C6 alkyl, halogen or halo C1-C6 alkyl;

R_8 is hydrogen, C3-C7 cycloalkyl, C1-C6 alkyl, C2-C6 alkenyl, C2-C6 alkynyl, NR_3R_4 or cyano;

R_9 is hydrogen, C3-C7 cycloalkyl, C1-C6 alkyl, C2-C6 alkenyl, C2-C6 alkynyl, NR_3R_4 or cyano;

R_{10} is hydrogen, C3-C7 cycloalkyl, C1-C6 alkyl, C2-C6 alkenyl, C2-C6 alkynyl, NR_3R_4 or cyano;

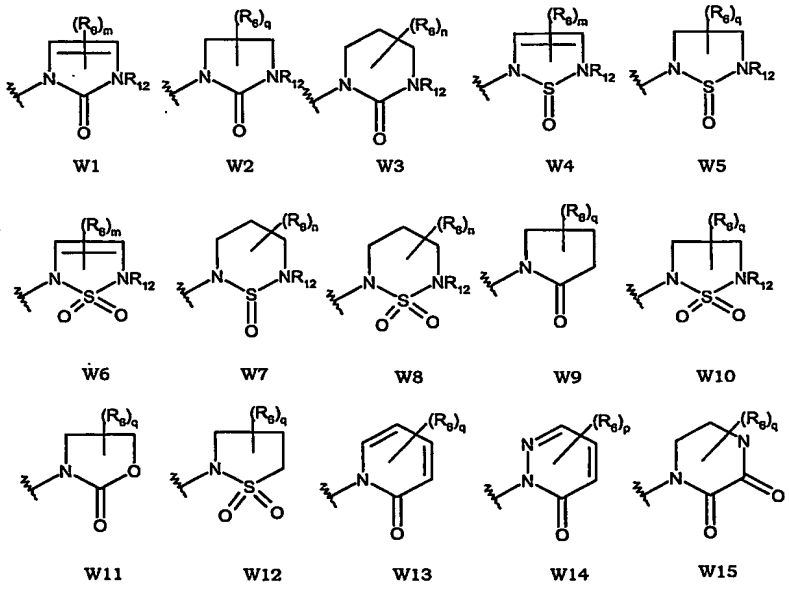
R_{11} is hydrogen, C3-C7 cycloalkyl, C1-C6 alkyl, C2-C6 alkenyl, C2-C6 alkynyl, NR_3R_4 or cyano;

R_{12} is R_3 or $-C(O)R_2$;

D is CR_8R_9 or is CR_8 when double bonded with G;

	G	is $CR_{10}R_{11}$ or is CR_{10} when double bonded with D or is CR_{10} when double bonded with X when X is carbon;
	X	is carbon or nitrogen;
	Y	is nitrogen or $-CR_7$;
	W	is a 4-8 membered ring, which may be saturated or may contain one to three double bonds, and in which: - one carbon atom is replaced by a carbonyl or $S(O)_m$; and - one to four carbon atoms may optionally be replaced by oxygen, nitrogen or NR_{12}, $S(O)_m$, carbonyl, and such ring may be further substituted by 1 to 8 R_6 groups;
	Z	is a 5-6 membered heterocycle, which may be substituted by 1 to 8 R_5 groups or a phenyl ring, which may be substituted by 1 to 4 R_5 groups;
	m	is an integer from 0 to 2.

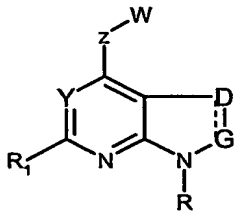
2. Compounds according to claim 1, in which W is selected among the following groups:



in which:
W1 represents a 1,3-dihydro-2H-imidazol-2-one derivative;
W2 represents a imidazolidin-2-one derivative;
W3 represents a tetrahydropyrimidin-2(1H)-one derivative;
W4 represents a 2,5-dihydro-1,2,5-thiadiazole 1-oxide derivative;
W5 represents a 1,2,5-thiadiazolidine 1-oxide derivative;
W6 represents a 2,5-dihydro-1,2,5-thiadiazole 1,1-dioxide derivative;
W7 represents a 1,2,6-thiadiazinane 1-oxide derivative;

W8 represents a 1,2,6-thiadiazinane 1,1-dioxide derivative;
W9 represents a pyrrolidin-2-one derivative;
W10 represents a 2,5-dihydro-1,2,5-thiadiazolidine 1,1-dioxide derivative;
W11 represents a 1,3-oxazolidin-2-one derivative;
W12 represents a isothiazolidine 1,1-dioxide derivative;
W13 represents a 2(1H)-pyridinone derivative;
W14 represents a 3(2H)-pyridazinone;
W15 represents a 2,3-piperazinedione derivative;
and
q is an integer from 0 to 4,
n is an integer from 0 to 6,
p is an integer from 0 to 3 and
m, R_6 and R_{12} are defined as in claim 1.

3. Compounds according to claim 1, having formula (II)



(II)

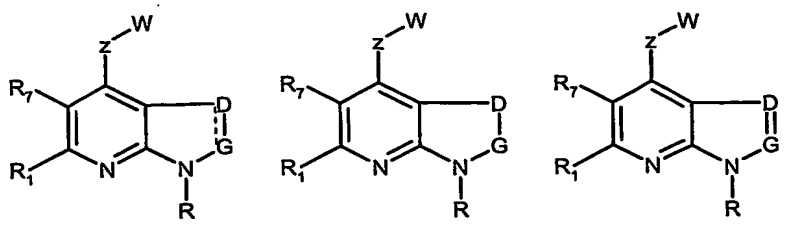
in which X is nitrogen or carbon and R, R_1, Y, Z, W, D, and G have the meanings as defined in claim 1.

4. Compounds according to claim 3, of formula (II), in which W is selected in the group consisting from: W1, W2, W3, W9, W10, W11, W12, W13, and W14.

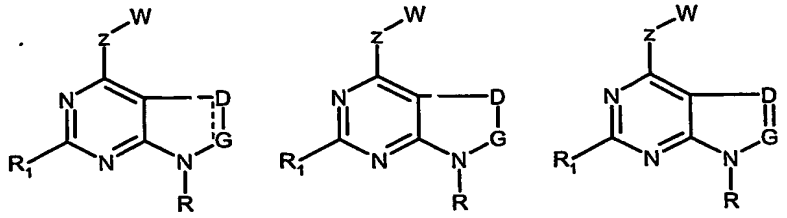
5. Compounds according to claim 3 of formula (II), in which Z is selected in the following group: pyrimidine, pyridine, thiazole, pyrazole, triazole and phenyl.

6. Compounds according to any of claims from 2 to 3 of formula (II), in which W is selected in the group consisting from: W1, W2, W3, W9, W10, W11, W12, W13 and W14 and in which Z is selected from the following heterocyclic groups: pyrimidine, pyridine, thiazole, pyrazole, triazole and phenyl.

7. Compounds according to any one from claim 1 to claim 6 of formula (IIb), (IIc), (IId), (IIe), (IIf), and (IIg)



(IIb) (IIc) (IId)



(IIe) (IIf) (IIg)

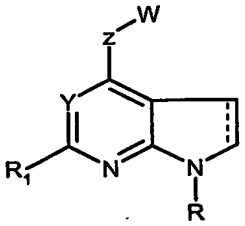
where R, R_1, R_7, Z, W, D, and G have the meanings as defined in claim 1.

8. Compounds according to claim 7 of formula (IIb), (IIc), (IId), (IIe), (IIf) and (IIg), in which W is selected in the group consisting from: W1, W2, W3, W9, W10, W11, W12, W13 and W14.

9. Compounds according to claims 7 and 8 of formula (IIb), (IIc), (IId), (IIe), (IIf) and (IIg), in which Z is selected in the group consisting from: pyrimidine, pyridine, thiazole, pyrazole, triazole and phenyl.

10. Compounds according to any of claims from 7 to 9 of formula (IIb), (IIc), (IId), (IIe), (IIf) and (IIg), in which W is selected in the group consisting from: W1, W2, W3, W9, W10, W11, W12, W13 and W14 and in which Z is a derivative of the following heterocyclic group: pyrimidine, pyridine, thiazol, pyrazol, triazol and phenyl.

11. Compounds according to claim 7 of formula (IIr), which correspond to the compounds of formula (II), where D and G are $-CH_2-$.



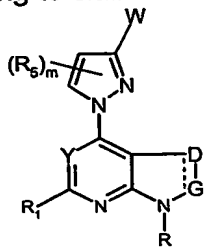
(IIr)

12. Compounds according to claim 11 of formula (IIr), in which W is selected in the group consisting from: W1, W2, W3, W9, W10, W11, W12, W13 and W14.

13. Compounds according to claims 11 and 12 of formula (IIr), in which Z is selected in the group consisting from: pyrimidine, pyridine, thiazol, pyrazol, triazol and phenyl.

14. Compounds according to any of claims from 11 to 13 of formula (IIr), in which W is selected in the group consisting from: W1, W2, W3, W9, W10, W11, W12, W13 and W14 and in which Z is selected in the group consisting from: pyrimidine, pyridine, thiazol, pyrazol, triazol and phenyl.

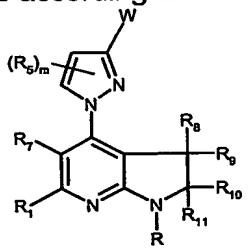
15. Compounds according to claim 3 of formula (III),



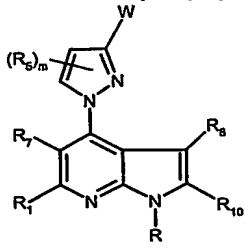
(III)

in which Z is a pyrazolyl derivative and R, R_1, R_5, Y, W, D, m and G have the meanings as defined in claim 1 and the dashed line may represent a double bond.

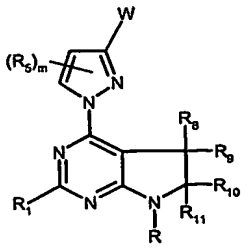
16. Compounds according to claim 15 of formula (IIIa), (IIIb), (IIIc) and (IIId),



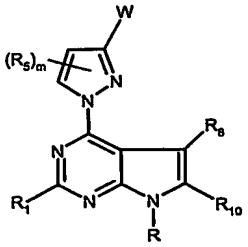
(IIIa)



(IIIb)



(IIIc)



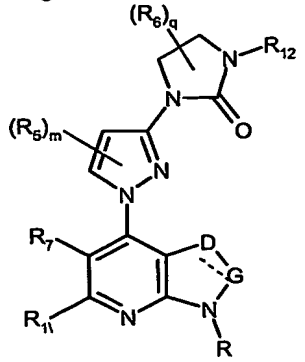
(IIId)

in which R, R_1, R_5, R_7, R_8, R_9, R_{10}, R_{11}, W, D, m and G have the meanings as defined in claim 1.

17. Compounds according to claim 16 of formula (IIIa), (IIIb), (IIIc) and (IIId), in which W is selected in the group consisting from: W1, W2, W3, W9, W10,

W11, W12, W13, W14 and R, R_1, R_5, R_7, R_8, R_9, R_{10}, R_{11}, and m have the meanings as defined in claim 1.

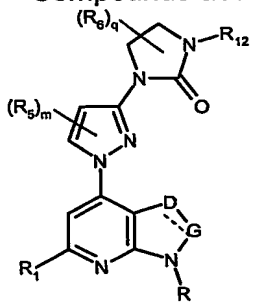
18. Compounds according to claim 15 of formula (IV),



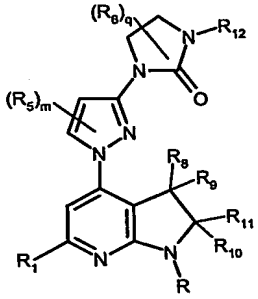
(IV)

in which R, R_1, R_5, R_6, R_7, R_{12}, m, q, D and G have the meanings as defined in claim 1 and 2 and the dashed line may represent a double bond.

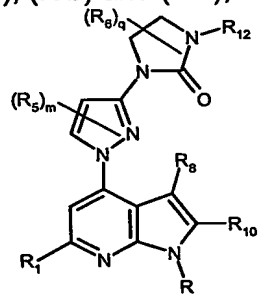
19. Compounds according to claim 18 of formula (IVa), (IVb) and (IVc),



(IVa)



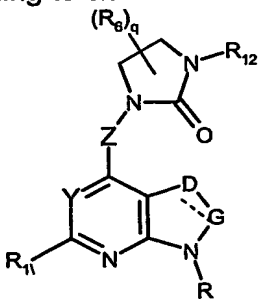
(IVb)



(IVc)

R, R_1, R_5, R_6, R_7, R_{12}, m, q, D and G have the meanings as defined in claim 1 and the dashed line may represent a double bond.

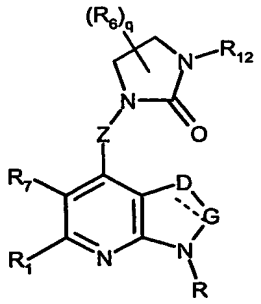
20. Compounds according to claim 3 of formula (V),



(V)

Z, R, R_1, R_6, q, Y, W, D and G have the meanings as defined in claim 1 and 2, and the dashed line may represent a double bond.

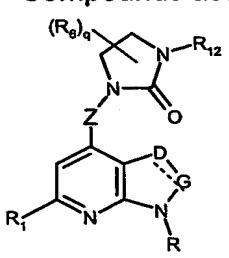
21. Compounds according to claim 20 of formula (VI),



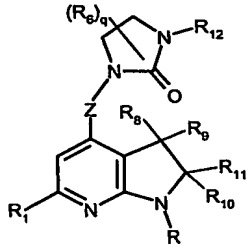
(VI)

in which Z, R, R_1, R_6, R_7, q, Y, W, D and G have the meanings as defined in claim 1 and 2, and the dashed line may represent a double bond.

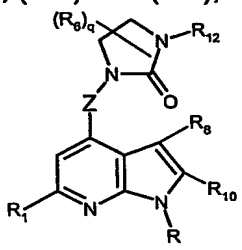
22. Compounds according to claim 21 of formula (VIa), (VIb) and (VIc),



(VIa)



(VIb)



(VIc)

in which R, R_1, R_6, R_8, R_9, R_{10}, R_{11}, R_{12}, q, D and G have the meanings as defined in claim 1 and 2 and the dashed line may represent a double bond.

23. Compounds according to claim 22 of formula (VIa), (VIb) and (VIc), in which Z is selected in the group consisting from: pyrimidine, pyridine, thiazol, pyrazol, triazol and phenyl and R, R_1, R_6, R_8, R_9, R_{10}, R_{11}, R_{12}, q, D and G have the meanings as defined in claim 1 and 2.

24. Compounds according to any of claims from 1 to 23 of formula (I), (IIb), (IIc), (IId), (IIe), (IIf), (IIg), (IIr), (III), (IIIa), (IIIb), (IIIc), (IIId), (IV), (IVa), (IVb), (IVc), (V), (VI), (VIa), (VIb), (VIc), wherein:
R_1 is C1-C3 alkyl group or halo C1-C3 alkyl group,
R_7 is hydrogen;
R_8, (R_9), R_{10}, (R_{11}) are hydrogen;
R is an aryl group selected from: 2,4-dichlorophenyl, 2-chloro-4-methylphenyl, 2-chloro-4-trifluoromethylphenyl, 2-chloro-4-methoxyphenyl, 2,4,5-trimethylphenyl, 2,4-dimethylphenyl, 2-methyl-4-methoxyphenyl, 2-methyl-4-ethoxyphenyl, 2-methyl-4-isopropoxyphenyl, 2-methyl-4-hydroxyphenyl, 2-methyl-4-chlorophenyl, 2-methyl-4-trifluoromethylphenyl, 2,4-dimethoxyphenyl, 2-methoxy-4-trifluoromethylphenyl, 2-methoxy-4-chlorophenyl, 3-methoxy-4-chlorophenyl, 2,5-dimethoxy-4-chlorophenyl, 2-methoxy-4-isopropylphenyl, 2-methoxy-4-trifluoromethylphenyl, 2-methoxy-4-

isopropylphenyl, 2-methoxy-4-methylphenyl, 2-trifluoromethyl-4-chlorophenyl, 2,4-bis-trifluoromethylphenyl, 2-trifluoromethyl-4-methylphenyl, 2-trifluoromethyl-4-methoxyphenyl, 2-difluoromethyl-4-methoxyphenyl, 2-bromo-4-isopropylphenyl, 2-methyl-4-cyanophenyl, 2-chloro-4-cyanophenyl, 2-trifluoromethyl-4-cyanophenyl, 2-trifluoromethoxy-4-cyanophenyl, 2-ethyl-4-cyanophenyl, 2-methyl-4-trifluoromethoxyphenyl, 4-methyl-6-dimethylaminopyridin-3-yl, 2,6-bismethoxy-pyridin-3-yl, 2-methyl-6-methoxy-pyridin-3-yl, 2-trifluoromethyl-6-methoxy-pyridin-3-yl 3-chloro-5-trichloromethyl-pyridin-2-yl, 2-methyl-4-(pyrazol-1-yl)-phenyl, 2-methoxy-4-(pyrazol-1-yl)-phenyl, 2,4,6-trimethoxyphenyl, 2-methyl-4,5-benzodioxolyl, 2-methyl-3,4-benzodioxolyl.

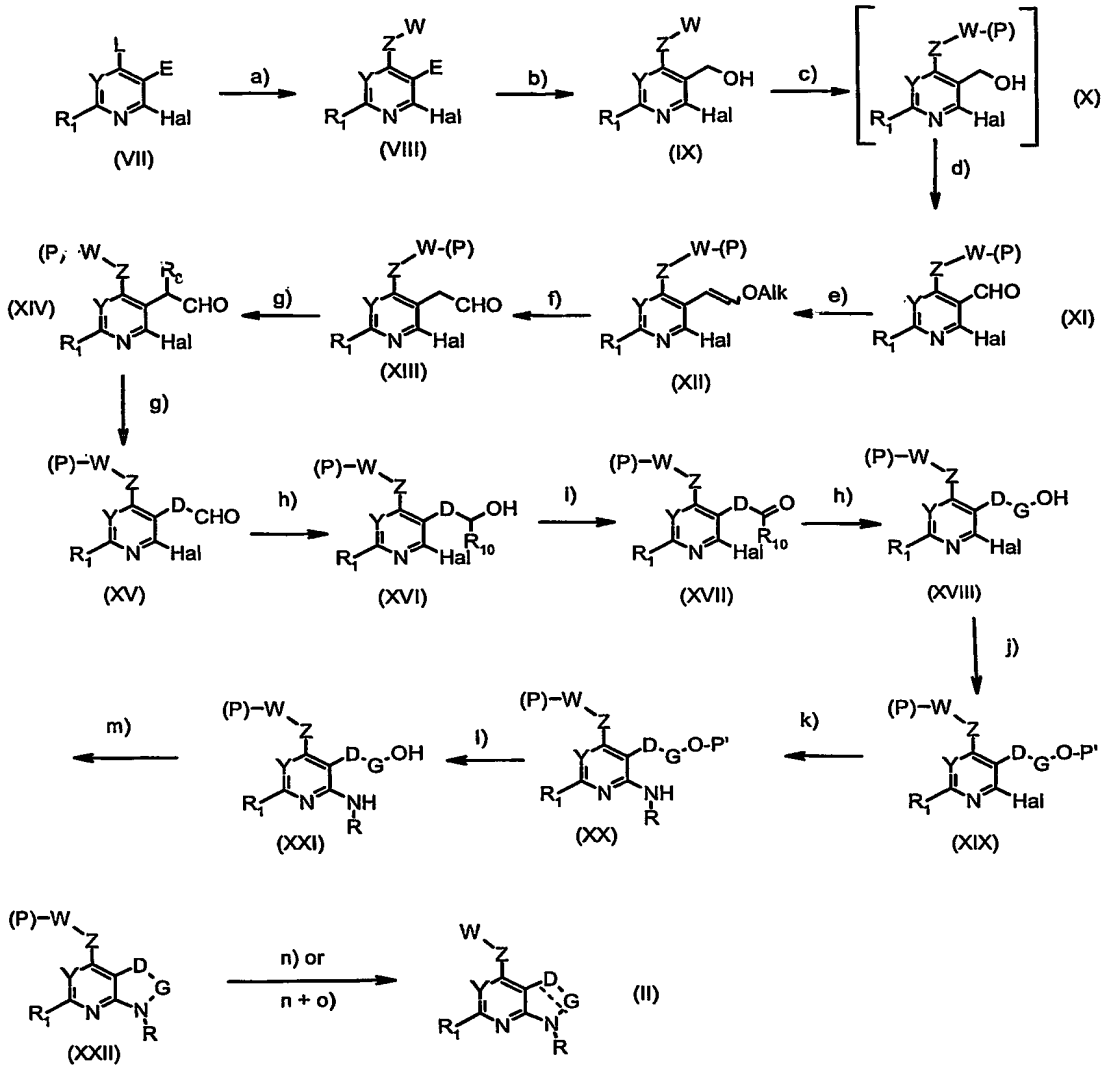
25. Compounds of formula (I), (IIb), (IIc), (IId), (IIe), (IIf), (IIg), (III), (IIIa), (IIIb), (IIIc), (IIId), (IV), (IVa), (IVb), (IVc), (V), (VI), (VIa), (VIb), (VIc), according to any of claims from 1 to 24 selected in the group consisting from:
1-{1-[1-(4-Methoxy-2-methylphenyl)-6-methyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl]-1H-pyrazol-3-yl}imidazolidin-2-one (compound 1-1);
1-{1-[1-(4-Methoxy-2-methylphenyl)-6-methyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl]-1H-pyrazol-3-yl}-3-methylimidazolidin-2-one (compound 1-2);
1-{1-[1-(2,4-Dichlorophenyl)-6-methyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl]-1H-pyrazol-3-yl}imidazolidin-2-one (compound 1-3);
1-(1-{1-[2,4-Bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-6-methyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl}-1H-pyrazol-3-yl)-2-imidazolidinone (compound 1-4);
1-{1-[1-(4-Hydroxy-2-methylphenyl)-6-methyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl]-1H-pyrazol-3-yl}-2-imidazolidinone (compound 1-5);
1-Acetyl-3-(1-{6-methyl-1-[2-methyl-4-(methyloxy)phenyl]-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl}-1H-pyrazol-3-yl)-2-imidazolidinone (compound 1-5);
1-Acetyl-3-(1-{6-methyl-1-[2-methyl-4-(methyloxy)phenyl]-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl}-1H-pyrazol-3-yl)-2-imidazolidinone (compound 1-6);
1-(1-{1-[4-(Ethyloxy)-2-methylphenyl]-6-methyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl}-1H-pyrazol-3-yl)-2-imidazolidinone (compound 1-7);
1-[1-(6-Methyl-1-{2-methyl-4-[(1-methylethyl)oxy]phenyl}-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl)-1H-pyrazol-3-yl]-2-imidazolidinone (compound 1-8);
1-[1-(6-Methyl-1-{2-methyl-4-[(trifluoromethyl)oxy]phenyl}-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl)-1H-pyrazol-3-yl]-2-imidazolidinone (compound 1-9);
3-Methyl-4-{6-methyl-4-[3-(2-oxo-1-imidazolidinyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-1-yl}benzonitrile (compound 1-10);
1-(1-{6-Methyl-1-[2-methyl-4-(1H-pyrazol-1-yl)phenyl]-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl}-1H-pyrazol-3-yl)-2-imidazolidinone (compound 1-11);
4-{6-Methyl-4-[3-(2-oxo-1-imidazolidinyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-1-yl}-3-(trifluoromethyl)benzonitrile (compound 1-12);

1-(1-{1-[2-(Difluoromethyl)-4-(methyloxy)phenyl]-6-methyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl}-1H-pyrazol-3-yl)-2-imidazolidinone (compound 1-13);
4-{6-Methyl-4-[3-(2-oxo-1-imidazolidinyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-1-yl}-3-[(trifluoromethyl)oxy]benzonitrile (compound 1-14);
3-Ethyl-4-{6-methyl-4-[3-(2-oxo-1-imidazolidinyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-1-yl}benzonitrile (compound 1-15);
1-(1-{6-Methyl-1-[2-(methyloxy)-4-(1H-pyrazol-1-yl)phenyl]-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl}-1H-pyrazol-3-yl)-2-imidazolidinone (compound 1-16);
1-{1-[6-Methyl-1-(6-methyl-1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl]-1H-pyrazol-3-yl}-2-imidazolidinone (compound 1-17);
1-(1-{6-Methyl-1-[2,4,6-tris(methyloxy)phenyl]-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl}-1H-pyrazol-3-yl)-2-imidazolidinone (compound 1-18);
1-{1-[6-Methyl-1-(6-methyl-1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl]-1H-pyrazol-3-yl}-2-imidazolidinone (compound 1-19);
1-(6-{6-Methyl-1-[2-methyl-4-(methyloxy)phenyl]-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl}-2-pyridinyl)-2-imidazolidinone (compound 1-20);
1-(4-{6-Methyl-1-[2-methyl-4-(methyloxy)phenyl]-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl}-2-pyrimidinyl)-2-imidazolidinone (compound 1-21);
1-(2-{6-Methyl-1-[2-methyl-4-(methyloxy)phenyl]-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl}-4-pyrimidinyl)-2-imidazolidinone (compound 1-22);
1-(1-{6-Methyl-1-[2-methyl-4-(methyloxy)phenyl]-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl}-1H-pyrazol-3-yl)-2-imidazolidinone (compound 1-23);
1-(1-{2,6-Dimethyl-1-[2-methyl-4-(methyloxy)phenyl]-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl}-1H-pyrazol-3-yl)-2-imidazolidinone (compound 1-24);
1-(3-{6-Methyl-1-[2-methyl-4-(methyloxy)phenyl]-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl}phenyl)-2-imidazolidinone (compound 1-25);
1-(5-Methyl-1-{6-methyl-1-[2-methyl-4-(methyloxy)phenyl]-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl}-1H-pyrazol-3-yl)-2-imidazolidinone (compound 1-26);
1-[1-(1-{4-[(difluoromethyl)oxy]-2-methylphenyl}-6-methyl-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-4-yl)-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl]-2-imidazolidinone (compound 1-27);
1-{1-[1-(4-Methoxy-2-methylphenyl)-6-methyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl]-1H-pyrazol-3-yl}pyrrolidin-2-one (compound 2-1);
1-{1-[1-(4-Methoxy-2-methylphenyl)-6-methyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl]-1H-pyrazol-3-yl}tetrahydropyrimidin-2(1H)-one (compound 3-1);
3-(1-{6-Methyl-1-[2-methyl-4-(methyloxy)phenyl]-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl}-1H-pyrazol-3-yl)-1,3-oxazolidin-2-one (compound 4-1);

Methyl 5-(1-{6-methyl-1-[2-methyl-4-(methyloxy)phenyl]-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl}-1H-pyrazol-3-yl)-1,2,5-thiadiazolidine-2-carboxylate 1,1-dioxide) (compound 5-1);
4-[3-(1,1-Dioxido-1,2,5-thiadiazolidin-2-yl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]-6-methyl-1-[2-methyl-4-(methyloxy)phenyl]-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine (compound 5-2).
4-[3-(1,1-Dioxido-2-isothiazolidinyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]-6-methyl-1-[2-methyl-4-(methyloxy)phenyl]-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine (compound 6-1);
3-Methyl-1-(1-{6-methyl-1-[2-methyl-4-(methyloxy)phenyl]-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl}-1H-pyrazol-3-yl)-2(1H)-pyridinone (compound 7-1);
2-(1-{6-Methyl-1-[2-methyl-4-(methyloxy)phenyl]-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl}-1H-pyrazol-3-yl)-3(2H)-pyridazinone (compound 8-1);
1-(1-{6-Methyl-1-[2-methyl-4-(methyloxy)phenyl]-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl}-1H-pyrazol-3-yl)-1,3-dihydro-2H-imidazol-2-one (compound 9-1);
1-(1-{6-Methyl-1-[2-methyl-4-(methyloxy)phenyl]-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl}-1H-pyrazol-3-yl)-2-imidazolidinone (compound 10-1);
1-(6-{6-Methyl-1-[2-methyl-4-(methyloxy)phenyl]-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl}-3-pyridinyl)-2-imidazolidinone (compound 11-1);
1-{1-[7-(2,4-Dichlorophenyl)-2-methyl-6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidin-4-yl]-1H-pyrazol-3-yl}-2-pyrrolidinone (compound 11-2).

26. Process for the preparation of the compounds of formula (II), starting from compounds of formula (VII), comprising the following steps as in Scheme 1:

Scheme 1



in which

step a stands for conversion of the leaving group L, selected in a group consisting from: halogen or reactive residue of sulphonic acid (e.g. mesylate, tosylate), preferably chloride, in the compounds (VIII), by reaction with the suitable Z-W derivative;

step b stands for reduction of the ester group (E) with a suitable reducing agent (such as DIBAl-H) to hydroxy group of compounds (IX);

step c stands for suitable protection of an NH group eventually present in W group with a P group, such as a p-methoxybenzyl group;

step d stands for oxidation of the hydroxy group with a suitable oxidizing agent (such as Dess-Martin periodinane) to the aldehyde group of compounds (XI);

steps e + f stands for formation of the aldehyde group of compounds (XIII) by Wittig reaction in the usual conditions, through formation of enol ether followed by acid hydrolysis (step f);

step g stands for the optional alkylation of the α position of the aldehyde by deprotonation with a suitable base (such as $LiN(SiMe_3)_2$), followed by the addition of a suitable alkylating agent (such as MeI) to form the alkylated aldehyde of compounds (XIV), (XV);

step h stands for the conversion of the aldehyde group group by a Grignard reagent (such as MeMgBr) into an alcohol group of compounds (XVI) and (XVIII);

step i stands for oxidation of the hydroxy group with a suitable oxidizing agent (such as Dess-Martin periodinane) to the ketone group of compounds (XVII);

step j stands for conversion of the hydroxy group in the suitable protecting group of compounds (XIX) (such as TBS: tert-butyldimethylsilyl);

step k stands for a Buchwald coupling reaction with the suitable amine RNH_2 to give the compounds of formula (XX);

step l stands for the deprotection reaction to give the hydroxy group of compounds (XXI);

step m stands for intramolecular cyclisation after conversion of the hydroxy group of compounds (XXI) in a suitable leaving group (such as bromide, by reaction with CBr_4 and PPh_3) to give the cyclized compounds (XXII);

step n stands for the deprotection reaction of the protected NH group eventually present in W group, to give final compounds (II);

step o stands for oxidation by a suitable oxidating agent (such as DDQ) in order to give formation of the double bond of compounds (II), when D is CHR_8 and G is CHR_{10}.

27. The use of a compound according to any of claims from 1 to 25, in the preparation of a medicament for use in the treatment of conditions mediated by CRF (corticotropin-releasing factor).

28. The use of a compound according to claim 27, in the preparation of a medicament for use in the treatment of depression and anxiety.

29. The use of a compound according to claim 27, in the preparation of a medicament for use in the treatment of IBS (irritable bowel disease) and IBD (inflammatory bowel disease).

30. A compound according to any of claims from 1 to 25, for use in the treatment of conditions mediated by CRF (corticotropin-releasing factor).

31. A compound according to claim 30, for use in the treatment of depression and anxiety.

32. A compound according to claim 30, for use in the treatment of IBS (irritable bowel disease) and IBD (inflammatory bowel disease).

33. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any of claims from 1 to 25, in admixture with one or more physiologically acceptable carriers or excipients.

34. A method for the treatment of a mammal, including man, in particular in the treatment of conditions mediated by CRF (corticotropin-releasing factor), comprising administration of an effective amount of a compound according to any of claims from 1 to 25.

35. A method, according to claim 34, in the treatment of depression and anxiety, comprising administration of an effective amount of a compound according to any of claims 1 to 25.

36. A method, according to claim 34, in the treatment of IBS (irritable bowel disease) and IBD (inflammatory bowel disease), comprising administration of an effective amount of a compound according to any of claims 1 to 25.